



News Notes

HOSC annual social — The Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club will host its annual special activities social Aug. 16 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the officer's club lanai. The event is free to HOSC members, eligible visitors and guests.

This year, the event is open to Hickam clubs and organizations as well as home business providers. For details or to reserve table space please email: turners012@hawaii.rr.com no later than Aug. 12.

Restoration advisory board meeting announcement — The Central Oahu Restoration Advisory Board will conduct a two-hour public meeting Aug. 25, beginning at 7 p.m. at Leeward Community College, Room BE105, located at 96-045 Ala Ike Street, in Pearl City.

The public is invited to attend. Information will be provided about ongoing environmental cleanup activities on Central Oahu.

The draft groundwater monitoring Report, which is currently available for public comment, will also be discussed.

Contact Christine Clements at 449-1584 ext. 229, or by e-mail at christine.clements@hickam.af.mil for questions.

FY06 NCO Retraining Program — Air Force officials have announced the start of the Fiscal Year 2006 NCO retraining program. The FY06 NCORP will target approximately 1,100 NCOs (staff sgt., tech sgt., master sgt., and

See NOTES, A10

In this week's Kukini



Youth Soccer B6

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Safety tip

Don't leave safety at work;
Make safety your target
everywhere

Hickam hosts showdown finals

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Country music enthusiasts sang along and even kicked up their heels and danced as eight contestants battled it out during the 24th annual Colgate Country

Showdown at Hickam's Enlisted Club Saturday and the Officers' Club Sunday.

The two-day competition, sponsored by Salem Media Group, JN Chevrolet, and Paniolo Trading Company, provided local amateur country artists the chance to perform

their favorite country hits or original songs in hopes of becoming country music's next big star.

Taking the stage throughout the competition were: Byron McCorriston, Andrea Prohaska, Aubrey Leigh, Mack Spencer, Jade Louie, Louise Emery,

Cowboy Willie, and Army Spc. Aiain Thompson.

KHCM Radio's Charlie Garrett was on hand to kick off the competition and audience members were treated to special guest performances by world renowned

See COUNTRY, A4

C-17s in progress



Photo by Gina Vanatter

Boeing C-17 structure mechanics Eric Carter (left) and Scotty Bates install a longeron external header on P-148, the third of eight aircraft being readied for delivery to Hickam in 2006. A longeron is a structure that holds the frames of the airplane together in the center fuselage section — one of the three major aircraft sections that make up the advanced airlifter. P-148 is scheduled for delivery from the Long Beach, Calif., factory in the first quarter of 2006.

Team Hickam helps grant wish

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In the eyes of a 12-year-old boy from Georgia, Air Force blue just turned solid gold.

Casey Courson, wished to skateboard somewhere other than in the Peach State. After a Google search and seeing the Hickam Singapore Skateboard Hangar on a Web site, he was hooked on doing some grinds and slides in the Rainbow State. That wish then was sent to the Make-a-Wish foundation and set in motion.

Casey and his brother Nicholas, father James, and and grand parents Walter and Cletia, arrived at the Honolulu International Airport July 28. One of Casey's first priorities was to get in the water and surf.

See MAKE A WISH, A6

K9 turns in badge for bones, kibble-n-bits

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A ceremony honoring a military working dog on the occasion of his retirement from the Air Force took place Monday at the Nelles Chapel.

Nero, a German shepherd who was born in February 1994, began his military service Sept. 25, 1995, at

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and became fully certified as a patrol and narcotics detection dog. He arrived at Hickam Oct. 1, 1996.

Through the course of his nine years of duty, Nero has helped suppress the flow of cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin and marijuana by accumulating 39 actual finds valued at more than \$30,000. He was also the public relations dog for

Hickam's K-9 unit.

"He's had a lot of face time with the public — even had children hanging on him," said Staff Sgt. Robert Norris, 15th Security Forces Squadron and Nero's final handler. "He was a laid back dog. You could give him a toy or some food and he'd be happy." That happiness has been evident to the adoptive family.

See K9 , A4



Photo by Mark Bates

Maj. Paul Kasuda, 15th Security Forces Squadron commander, hands a large bone to Nero on his retirement day. Nero served more than nine years as a patrol and narcotic detection dog with the military working dog unit here. The Garza family has adopted the German shepherd so he can relax and be spoiled in his retirement years.

Kristi Yamaguchi to visit commissaries in Hawaii

By Nancy Onell
Defense Commissary Agency

World renowned figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi will visit commissaries in Hawaii Monday and Tuesday to sign autographs and meet with shoppers.

Monday, Ms. Yamaguchi will visit the Hickam commissary from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the Pearl Harbor commissary from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, she will visit the Kaneohe Bay commissary from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the Schofield Barracks commissary from 3 to 6 p.m.

A major star in the world of figure skating, Ms. Yamaguchi's career is marked by numerous major championship titles and critically acclaimed performances. She won the World Championships singles title in 1991 and 1992, and an Olympic Gold Medal in 1992. After retiring her amateur status, she toured for 10 years with "Stars on Ice."

In 1996, Ms. Yamaguchi established the Always Dream Foundation whose mission is to encourage, support and embrace the hopes and dreams of children. The foundation supports organizations in California, Nevada and Hawaii that are dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children.

The Aloha Shoyu Company is a corporate sponsor of the Always Dream Foundation and is sponsoring Ms. Yamaguchi's visit to military commissaries. Customers who purchase any Aloha Shoyu product during the skater's visit will receive a free autographed picture, or customers may bring one item of their own for Yamaguchi to sign.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of 30 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices — an annual savings worth about \$2,700 to a family of four.

As a core military family support element and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

Long dog days of summer not a time to relax on safety

By Col. Bill "Goose" Changose
15th Airlift Wing commander

The weekdays at the beach and the parks are over for our little Team Hickam members with school starting back up. We are heading into the final month of the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Overall Team Hickam Sky Warriors have been doing great. You've taken to heart the "wingman concept" and you're speaking up when you see a friend, coworker or family member about to do something unsafe. I really appreciate that. I'm not surprised because this is the best wing in the Air Force, but I appreciate it.

Although I am thrilled at how well we've done to date, we can do better. So far this fiscal year (starting Oct. 1, 2004) we've had six mishaps. These half dozen mishaps have cost Team Hickam more than \$32,500 and more than 650 manpower hours. In almost every case it turns out that if we'd been just a little more careful or someone would have voiced a concern, we could have prevented them.

So I'm challenging you. Please be aware of your surroundings, follow procedures and safety instructions, and use common sense during off duty activities. Most of all be a good wingman, if you see something that's about to happen, and you know it's wrong ... speak up. Safety is not just a 101 day program. It's 365 days, 24/7 and needs to be part of our mindset. Please, keep safety consciousness in mind.

I've mentioned many times about the great things people on Hickam are doing for the base and community. For instance, the Hickam Blue Devils youth wrestling program. The program in its first year had more than 60 wrestlers register, hosted more than 300 local wrestlers and family members in a tournament at the base gym and crowned two Hawaii State Freestyle Wrestling Champions. All this could not have happened without coaches like **Capt. Tim Bunnell, Pacific Air Forces, 1st Lt. Jeff Baumgart, 15th Mission Support Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard, 15th Airlift Wing.** These guys, with the support of 15th Services



Photo by Angela Elbern

Col. Bill "Goose" Changose, 15th Airlift Wing commander, shakes Master Sgt. Jon Aufderheiden, PACAF, hand during the promotion ceremony.

Squadron members **Larry Hileman and BJ Bentley**, helped increase the self confidence and teach sportsmanship to our young Sky Warriors. I look forward to an even more successful season for the team next year. Go Blue Devils!

While we had grapplers at the gym, we've also had Sky Warriors who were grappling with the World Wide Web here on Hickam. **Tech. Sgt. Marshall Brown, 15th Communications Squadron** has worked extremely hard to support the creation of the 535th Airlift Squadron Web site and many others. He does much of this before and after completing his primary duties for the communication squadron. It's the dedication of those like Marshall who make things happen on Hickam.

We also have Sky Warriors making a difference in the lives of people who live more than 4,500 miles away. **The 15th Services Squadron, 65th Airlift Squadron, and the 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs** office helped make a

wish come true for a Georgia boy Saturday through Monday. Twelve-year old Casey Courson and his family were part of a Make-A-Wish foundation wish. Casey's wish was to learn to surf, skateboard and see Hawaii, so the Make-a-Wish foundation sent the family to Hawaii. While here, Casey

skated at Hickam's Skate Park, had a tour of the 65th AS and the C-40 aircraft. He even received his very own blue flight suit and aircrew scarf worn by the members of the 65th AS. The American flag patch on his flight suit had seen combat over the skies in Iraq. This is why I'm proud and boastful to be a Sky Warrior - it's not just the terrific mission we have here or how we do it, it's the extra mile you go each day to help make a difference. Read all about Casey's visit starting on A1.

Finally, congratulations go out to all the second quarter **15th AW and Team Hickam award winners.** What you each have accomplished is great, please keep pressing to ensure that Team Hickam's motto of "Power from the Pacific" remains a reality. See all the quarterly winners on A3.



"Spirit to Serve"

By Lt. Col. Juan Narvid
735th Air Mobility Squadron

In June I called my dad to wish him a happy Father's Day. My dad and I soon found ourselves, as we usually do, talking about the time he spent in the Air Force and his service in the F-4 and gunship during the Vietnam War. I smiled inside remembering the many times he had told me the same stories as I grew up and how many more times the stories surfaced as we discussed the battles our country has been in since the 70's.

For some unknown reason, I began to take notice he always referred to his time in the military as "when I was in the service" or "when I served with the Tac Fighter Squadron" or "the service we provided was ...". He never referred to his profession or to his career in the military. He recounted his 20-year career as being in "service" to whatever squadron or wing he was assigned to at that time. It dawned on me during this conversation I had missed something as a teenager growing up watching one of my heroes. My dad was motivated to join the military out of a spirit to serve and led his life with that same service mindfulness.

I know a lot of us joined the Air Force to serve our country because we felt bound to defend the freedoms we have. That is great motivation, but it is not the service I am talking about. We also have a great core value of "service before self." This common vow puts our duty to our nation above our own personal desires, but that is not the service I am talking about.

I am talking about a spirit to serve. It is people who always seem to go out of their way to be more helpful than the rest, that person you enjoy going to for an answer, that person who takes the time to find you someone who can help when he can't, or that person who treats you like he

cares. That is the service I am talking about.

It is hard to explain, but you know this service when you see it. Denise Kessler from the Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal has that spirit. She is the one with the smile you can see from across the terminal. She can bring serenity to that single parent with three kids in tow in the midst of all the chaos because she made you feel like you were getting personalized service. It is Staff Sgt. Mary Jane Harris, 735th AMS, from the CSS that has that spirit. She takes the time to help you understand the overwhelming paperwork required for a permanent change of station and how to expedite the last minute checklist item you forgot to get done. It becomes easy to pick out people like Denise and Sergeant Harris who have a spirit to serve. They are the ones who make you proud of the people you serve with and help others to succeed.

However, it becomes even more obvious when you don't get good service. How many times have you run into the impatient waiter who is waiting for you to make up your mind on the chicken marsel or the baked ziti? Or the mother of all rubs, "I'm sorry, that's not my job." Yes, those folks feel like the customer is in service to them and not the other way around.

It's not easy to feel like we are in the business of service of others when the person across the counter, at the end of a refueling hose, or delivering cargo doesn't look like a customer. It's not always intuitive that they are a customer because they are wearing the same uniform as us. Or maybe because the service you provide is the only option they have. However, it becomes obvious to them who has the spirit to serve and who doesn't. We can better serve others by asking ourselves, are we someone we would like helping our family?

Action Line

The purpose of the Action Line is in its name. It's your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. It also allows you to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their duties - and we all know there are plenty of those folks here. All members of Team Hickam are welcome to use the Action Line; however, I urge you to give the normal chain of command the first chance at resolving problems or issues. It's only fair to give our commanders and managers the first opportunity to work issues under their responsibility. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Kudos to ground maintenance crew

Comment: I called the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron to have our trees trimmed a few months ago. The crew came out (I was not home at the time) and did a great job trimming the trees and cleaning up. We had some dead limbs and I am a yard freak, so it meant a lot to me. I was not able to say thank you since I wasn't home. So I sent an email to the CE unit and asked them to pass my thanks on to the crew.

This week the crew was back on my street removing a dead tree. One of the crew members came up to me and asked if I was the one who sent the thank you letter. I said yes and again thanked him. He said he appreciated the letter and told me that in his 10 years of working for this company on this base that no-one had ever taken the time to say thank you. Of course it made me feel good since I did say thank you but it also made me sad ... to think that for 10 years no-one else has

taken the time to say "thanks." Sure, he gets paid to do that job, but they performed a service from which I benefited. I love living on base and love the services the Air Force provides.

Too often we take advantage of those services and simply come to expect the base to provide such things. Whether it be tree trimming, watering, or mowing I think all the grounds maintenance crews who work so hard to keep this base looking so beautiful deserve recognition and a big "thank you"!

Response: I would like to echo your thanks and acknowledge the great work done by the tree trimming and grounds maintenance contractor, and say a special "Mahalo" for being a key part of the team that makes Hickam look great. Too often we have a tendency to overlook work being done around us by others and don't show our appreciation for the outstanding work they do. Thank you for bringing this to our attention and for recognizing the efforts of others.

Hickam Diamond Tips



"No Hat Areas: The following areas are designated as no hat areas: flight line, 15th Medical Group Clinic lanai area, Tradewinds Enlisted Club lanais.

Source: AFI 36-2903_15 AW SI
The 15th AW/Commander has also designated the Wright Brothers Cafe lanai as a no hat area.

Questions?
Contact your first sergeant.

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
Base Chaplain
449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
SARC Hotline
449-7272

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Hickam Voices

What are the school supplies you need or want most?



A marker board.

Bailey Erskin, 1st Grade
Hickam Elementary School



Crayons, scissors, and glue.

Dominic Dunham, 1st Grade
Hickam Elementary School



Pens, pencils, and paper.

Erin Laurent, 8th Grade
Aliamanu Middle School



Mechanical pencils.

Jarrod Rennie, 5th Grade
Hickam Elementary School



A blue school box.

Taylor Erskin, 3rd Grade
Hickam Elementary School



A Lizzie McGuire backpack.

Sarah Zephier, 3rd Grade
Mokulele Elementary School

Next week's question:
Besides your own, what career field do you think is the most underappreciated?

To respond to this question, send an email to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil with a response and phone number to contact you.

Big kids' Legos

The first frames of what will be hundreds of steel-framed homes under construction by Hickam Community Housing LLC began springing up July 28 in Earhart Village. [Right] Aisa Wily, left, drives steel pins through the frames and into the new concrete pad as Leatuolo Isala steadies what will be a wall in a home for one of Hickam's families in less than six months. [Bottom] The HCH subcontractors and construction team assemble the first-floor, termite-proof steel frames as a new concrete pad (foreground) is ready for framing. Hickam Community Housing is the privatization company that will be building, renovating and caring for Hickam homes for the next 50 years. For more information about Hickam Community Housing, logon to www.HickamCH.com, call 423-2300 or stop by their offices at 7130 Ohana Nui Circle in Earhart Village.

Photos by Christina Failma



Hickam names award winners

**Airman of the Quarter
Airman 1st Class
Christina Winkeljohn**
735th Air Mobility Squadron
Airman Winkeljohn was responsible for the launch and recovery of 90 aerovac missions with 51 litter patients. She managed the aircrew in-flight meal tracking sheet. She created and published the first ever newsletter for Det. 1, 715th Air Mobility Operations Group, Diego Garcia. She was nominated president of Vosler Hall's dorm council.

**NCO of the Quarter
Staff Sgt. Erim Celik**
15th Contracting Squadron
Sergeant Celik is a unit fitness manager who managed \$25 million for 10 critical service contracts. She earned her master's degree in general administration and graduated with a 3.8 grade point average. She was also an active member of the 56 council and led registration efforts for more than 135 youth wrestlers.

**Senior NCO of the Quarter
Senior Master Sgt.
Dale Armstrong**
56th Information Warfare Flight
Sergeant Armstrong has led the first-ever unit enlisted professional development seminar. He also secured 100 percent of the unit's quarterly mission and training needs. Sergeant

Armstrong has been a foster parent for three abused children and also emceed two 15th Airlift Wing monthly promotion ceremonies.

**CGO of the Quarter
2nd Lt. Geoffery Levine**
15th Contracting Squadron
Lieutenant Levine was responsible for procuring \$400,000 of cutting-edge computer equipment. He skillfully negotiated \$20,000 for a C-17 cable infrastructure contract saving a total of \$11,000. Lieutenant Levine received the outstanding leadership award and served as class leader while at the air and space basic course. He was also a member of the base honor guard.

**Civilian of the Quarter
Category I
Natalie Keaney**
15th Services Squadron
Ms. Keaney coordinated the 30th Annual Spring Craft Fair from start to finish with more than 1,000 people in attendance. She also oversaw 180 Hickam children at the summer kids craft camp. Ms. Keaney mentored the USAF Academy cadets by sharing her views on the Air Force as a veteran spouse, and was also selected as team mom for the youth t-ball league and accepted the five-year Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Award.

**Civilian of the Quarter
Category II
Charlotte Lewis**
15th Services Squadron
Ms. Lewis maintained school-age program fees at the bottom of the Department of Defense scales. As a result, the fees have not increased since 2001. She also instituted new pre-teen community service programs to spruce up base walking and bike paths as well as local beaches. Ms. Lewis provided a pre-deployment brief for 20 Marine families whose spouses were deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait, and was hand-picked to sit on an interview board of five to select the new principal at Mokulele Elementary School.

**Civilian of the Quarter
Category III
Elizabeth Tevault**
Pacific Air Forces
Ms. Tevault was responsible for completing an outstanding rewrite of PACAF Instruction of Environmental Status of Resources and Training. She was also a coordinator for the vice commander's environmental safety and occupational health council. Ms. Tevault was a chaperone on two hikes for Ilima Middle School and participated in a leadership development forum at the University of Hawaii.

**Volunteer of the Quarter
Master Sgt.
Jennifer Anderson**
735th Air Mobility Squadron
Sergeant Anderson is truly dedicated to mission and volunteering. She served as the president of Airlift Tanker Association, Diamond Head Chapter, was a key volunteer for the Hawaiian Food Bank, and chaired decorations for the 2004 PACAF Outstanding Airmen of the Year ceremony. She is also the President of the Hickam Airman's Attic and an advisor to the 56 council.

**Team of the Quarter
The Airman's Attic**
The Attic diligently processed 15,000 donated items by organizing serviceable items for Hickam's needy families. They also donated \$900 to Hickam's Deployed Spouses' Program. This team has taken care of enlisted families by purchasing and donating \$1,400 in essential baby items to 14 expecting parents. Excess toys valued at more than \$1,000 were donated to a local church nursery. In addition, they gave \$5,000 in furniture and clothing items to the Honolulu Big Brothers and Big Sisters. By instituting the Attic's first-ever curb side pick-up program, there was an increase in the amount of donations received.

Reduction in force effects Hickam members

By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

In the Federal government, layoffs are called reduction in force. Thirty three RIF notices were delivered here to affected employees July 26. The RIF enters into effect Sept. 30, impacting four organizations on Hickam. The principal reason for Hickam's RIF is the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's reorganization due to new mission requirements. The Air Force Personnel Center oversees the RIF and determines

the RIF assignment or placement offers after management decisions are completed. Typically, management determines which positions are deleted or changed in any reorganization or downsizing program. There are several ways management attempts to avoid layoffs and the need for a RIF. Management and the civilian personnel flight review vacancies for possible reassignment action prior to the RIF to avoid unnecessary disruption to the work force. Other RIF tools include offering voluntary early retirement authority or voluntary separation incentive

pay, terminating temporary employees and hiring freezes. When a RIF becomes necessary, all employees within the competitive area (in this case, all Air Force appropriated fund civilian positions located on Oahu) compete for available positions based on RIF seniority, which includes tenure, veteran's preference, performance ratings and length of service. Displaced employees aren't left to fend for themselves. Each affected employee receives individual counseling on the available placement programs. Those who receive lower grade job offers

are eligible for grade and/or pay retention benefits. The placement assistance programs for employees being displaced by RIF include, the Department of Defense Priority Placement Program, which affords displaced employees priority placement in other DOD agencies in the commuting area, as well as in certain CONUS and overseas locations. The Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program is available to individuals who are separated by RIF and provides assistance for continued federal

employment in other Federal agencies (DOD and non-DOD). Separated employees may also register for the DOD Reemployment Priority List, which provides placement for priority in DOD agencies in the commuting area. Layoffs or a RIF leave a significant impression on the work force as a whole, but it can also provide new opportunities for some to enter different career fields and expand their horizons. For more information, contact the civilian personnel flight at 449-9973.

COUNTRY, From A1

artists Henry Kapono and Dita Holifield and Red Handed.

While only one contestant was named the champion, Dita Holified, had some words of encouragement for the aspiring stars.

“I know what it took to put their talent on the line and perform,” she said. “It takes a lot to perform and all of them are really strong in many areas and they should be proud and excited about what they did here.”

After singing two songs each per night, the judges tallied their scores and announced the top three finishers.

The competition's third place winner, Andrea Prohaska served up a sensational performance, complete with energetic choreography and a touch of yodeling.

Winning second place was Specialist Thompson, who proved to be a crowd favorite.

“He was my favorite! I really liked the original piece he sang. The lyrics were great and he incorporated a lot of the military lifestyle,” noted Senior Airman Matthew Forster, 15th Communications Squadron.

Winning the competition and receiving the title as Colgate Country Showdown's Oahu winner was Mack Spencer.

Originally from Hawaii, but currently living in Tennessee, Spencer returned to the islands after his aunt submitted a demo tape to the radio station, and he was selected as a finalist.

“I actually moved to Tennessee originally to be discovered, and it's great that I came all the way home for this contest and may have found my chance to be discovered right here at home,” he said.

The road to finals will now



Photo by Mark Bates

Mack Spencer, performs Saturday night at the Hickam Tradewinds Enlisted Club. He was named the Colgate Country Showdown's Oahu winner. He will now compete Aug. 24 at the Los Angeles County Fair. The Colgate Country Showdown is a nation-wide talent show aimed at finding new country music talent offering amateur performers the opportunity to launch a professional career.

lead Mr. Spencer to the state contest at the Los Angeles County Fair Aug. 24.

“The whole experience was great!” Mr. Spencer said. “The contestants were all so talented, the judges were nice and the audience was excited. Now it's

off to California next and we'll see just how far I can get.”

The Colgate Country Showdown is a nation-wide talent show aimed at finding new country music talent in America and offers amateur performers the opportunity to launch professional

careers through a series of local, state and regional competitions. The final showdown is a nationally televised event at Walt Disney World, where the winner will be crowned as the Showdown's champion and receive a grand prize of \$100,000.

K9, From A1

“He is adjusting alarmingly fast to civilian life,” said Chief Master Sgt. Debra Garza, Pacific Air Forces.

“I’ve caught him a few times on the couch, and he’s even getting along with the cats.” Nero has lived with the Garzas for the past month becoming accustomed to civilian duties like casual walks.

The youngest Garza family member has ideas of her own for the retired K-9. “I plan on playing with him a lot and just spoiling him,” said Savannah, who said her older sister Ciarra would be sharing the walking duties.

During his nearly 70 dog years, Nero has been called on several occasions to provide narcotic interdiction to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, National Criminal Intelligence Service and Honolulu Sheriff's Department on Oahu and Johnston Atoll.

Nero's outstanding patrol capabilities were recognized when he competed in the Hawaiian Island's K-9 competition in August 2000 attended by 43 police dogs from the U.S. Navy, Army, Marines, U.S. Customs and three local police agencies. Nero placed first in scouting, second in narcotics detection and second in aggression, winning the overall “top dog” award.

Later in 2001, Nero was selected to represent PACAF at the Department of Defense Worldwide Competition, at Lackland AFB. During the competition he was awarded third place for tactical obedience. He has had six handlers in his nine-year career.

Hawaii-Pacific area CFC ramps up for campaign

By Staff Sgt. Bryan Beach
PACOM Public Affairs

Camp H. M. Smith, HAWAII — A soft gentle breeze flowed into the open-windowed conference room as the sun shown down on the magnificent view of Pearl Harbor, Honolulu and the ancient, majestic Diamond Head in the distance.

The view from the Sunset Lanai conference room was breathtaking for everyone except Joy Muranaka who sat in darkness. Muranaka is blind.

Muranaka may be blind, but she is not helpless, thanks in part to the assistance of her guide dog, “Mariette,” who is provided by ‘Eye of the Pacific Guide Dogs and Mobility Services.’ Without the assistance she receives from the EPGD canines, she “would not be able to lead the life she does,” Muranaka said during her speech at the Combined Federal Campaign project officer briefing held at the Sunset Lanai here July 19.

Muranaka was the guest speaker for the event, which brought together the Hawaii-Pacific Area CFC organizers and volunteer project officers from a myriad of federal agencies including the military, Postal Service, U.S. Customs, and even U.S. Game and Wildlife.

The assistance Muranaka receives from Eye of the Pacific Guide Dogs and Mobility Services is just one of literally thousands of charitable organizations that takes part in the Federal Governments’ annual Combined Federal Campaign.

The U.S. Pacific Command sponsors this year’s campaign. PACOM is the lead agency responsible for administrating and conducting the actual fund drive and organizing all the campaigns of all the federal government agencies in the Hawaiian Islands and Pacific Area.

“If you look through the donor brochure, you’re going to find an agency that has touched your life in one way or another at one point or another.”

Maj. Clare Edelen
CFC Hawaii-Pacific Region deputy

It’s a large task, requiring a great deal of planning and organization. About 80 people were in attendance at the briefing.

“It is different this year for PACOM because last year we were just a spoke in the wheel,” said Air Force Major Clare Edelen, Deputy, CFC Hawaii-Pacific Region. “This year we’re the hub. We’re actually running it this year and it’s an eye-opening experience to a lot of folks here.”

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

In the past, hundreds of non-profit organizations seeking donations from Federal employees would swarm upon military bases, post offices and other Federal workplaces in hopes of gaining access to employees and securing donations.

To make access to government employees easier and streamline the process, the Federal government devised the CFC. Established in 1961, it is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country and the only campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from Federal employees in the workplace.

“Based on President Kennedy’s direction in 1961, this is the only

opportunity that a Federal or military person has the opportunity to donate,” said Edelen. “As a group of workers, this is the one single time that a (Federal or military) person can be asked to donate.”

The theme for 2005 is, “Heroes of the Pacific,” and the idea is to give credit and acknowledge the service of the war fighters and those who support them, said Edelen.

One of the primary goals of CFC is to make 100 percent contact with Federal and military employees and give them the opportunity to donate. But the first challenge, points out Edelen, is making contact with everyone. With deployments and the geographic challenges of the islands, it makes it difficult to make 100 percent contact.

“From Admiral Fallon down, we’re asking that leaders and project officers find everyone first,” said Edelen. “Education (about CFC) will come later and is the main thrust of the campaign, but for now, we have to find everybody first.”

In 2004, the CFC campaign raised a record-setting \$14.9 million in pledges from the Defense Department, and historically the military has always donated generously, according to the CFC website.

“If you look through the Donor Brochure, you’re going to find an agency that has touched your life in one way or another at one point or another,” said Edelen. “There are 1,700 agencies,” she said. “From the Humane Society to the Cancer Society, it’s in there, believe me, you just haven’t thought to open up the book yet and realize it’s there.”

The 2005 CFC kicks off Sept. 19, and runs through Oct. 28. More details about specific “kick-off” events like fun runs, golf tournaments and other events will be publicized as the kick-off date approaches.



- Damage to private property**
- A civilian Air Force employee notified security forces about his privately owned vehicle being damaged while parked at the AMC Terminal.
- Damage to private property**
- An Air Force family member notified security forces about her privately owned vehicle being damaged while parked at the commissary.
- Assault**
- Two active-duty Air Force members reported being physically assaulted by an unknown individual at the enlisted club.
- Hit and run**
- An active-duty Air Force member called the security forces control center requesting assistance due to an unknown person striking his vehicle and fleeing the scene.
- Dangerous weapons offense**
- A patrolman found contraband while conducting a base entry point check. The suspect was charged and released to his chain of command.
- Harassment**
- An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about a harassing phone call.
- Shoplifting**
- A retired military member was detained by Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$134.67.
- Theft of private property**
- An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about his wallet being stolen from his vehicle. Estimated value: \$388.
- Shoplifting**
- An Air Force member and a civilian with no military affiliation were detained by Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$26.
- Theft of government property**
- An Air Force civilian employee notified security forces about a pintle hook latch being stolen from a government vehicle.

MAKE A WISH, From A1

Saturday, Casey got his skate boarding wish when he arrived at Hickam and was greeted by Julie Klembara, 15th Services Squadron , and escorted to the skate park hangar.

For hours he casper flipped, force slid, ollied and made a few new bruises that even his favorite pro skateboarder, Bam Margera, would be proud of.

While at the hangar Casey made a few new friends, one of which was Trisha Groenheim, wife of 15th Operations Group Commander Col. Steven Groenheim. After a few phone calls and squadron coordination, Ms. Groenheim helped

add an unplanned itinerary stop to Casey’s Make-a-Wish trip.

Monday, the Georgia clan, received a VIP tour of the 65th Airlift Squadron. Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Bob Holba and Capt. Peter Birchenough, current operations Scheduler and C-40 pilot, escorted Casey and outfitted him in his very own blue flight suit, patches and scarf. The party was taken to the flight line and given a tour of the C-40 aircraft prior to a launch.

“There were so many folks at the 65th that wanted to be a part of this,” said the captain. “It’s rare an opportunity like

this comes up that you know is going to impact someone’s life and when that someone is a child ... everybody wants to be on board.

“My favorite moment was when I put him into the flight suit,” the pilot said. “He giggled the whole time. His face really said it all, you could tell there were no words to describe what he was feeling and that totally made my day!”

Prior to their departure, Lt. Col. Holba presented Casey and his brother with squadron coins and postcards of the aircraft.

As they were leaving, Capt.

Birchenough informed Casey the American flag on his flight suit was given to him by Maj. Pat Baughan, 65th AS pilot, who wore it during combat in the skies over Iraq.

“It was great to do this trip,” said Mr. Courson. “This was something I never would’ve expected.

“This whole trip is something he would’ve never had the chance to do without the Make-a-Wish Foundation.”

Make-a-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Casey suffers from Congenital Heart Disease and has gone through four open heart surgeries one of which when he was barely 72 hours old.

“Being a part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and allowing a child, such as Casey, to make a wish that gives them the opportunity to think about something other than their medical condition is very fulfilling,” said Lee Henry-Chang, Visitors Program Director Make-A-Wish, Hawaii.

“It is very rewarding to see the outpouring of assistance.”

Casey, decked out in his flight suit, and his brother, Nicholas, arrive on the flight line at the 65th Airlift Squadron for their C-40 tour Monday.



[Above] Captain Peter Birchenough, 65th Airlift Squadron current operations scheduler and C-40 pilot, explains the finer points of piloting a C-40 to Casey Courson, 12. Casey was visting the base from Georgia due to a Make-a-Wish foundation grant. [Right] The young skater does a jump off a ramp at the Hickam Singapore Skateboard Hangar Saturday. His wish was to skateboard somewhere other than Georgia and to learn to surf.



Tell us what you think or would like to see in Kukini

Team Hickam Airmen enjoy the beach blast hosted by the Air Force Sergeants Association Airmen's Activity Program July 23. The AAP's mission is to get Hickam Airmen involved and offer events for Airmen to do things on base and get to know each other.



Editor's Note: To read the complete stories and find more Air Force News, go to www.aaf.mil.

Total force, joint, coalition team create synergy in CAOC

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) — Staffed by active-duty, Guard and Reserve forces from all the U.S. services along with coalition partners, the Central Air Forces Combined Air Operations Center at a forward-deployed location has proven to be a true total force, joint and coalition team.

“The partnership (among) the people of these great nations and services is solid,” said Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan, III, Combined Forces Air Component commander. “It is based on a shared commitment to peace and freedom.”

The center became fully operational Feb. 18, 2003, and stands as the only warfighting coalition operations center of its kind currently in the Southwest Asia theater of operations. Servicemembers from different nations, including the United States, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South Korea and Singapore, have worked side by side planning and executing operations. Those operations have supported operations Iraqi Freedom and

Enduring Freedom as well as Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

On an average day, coalition members at the center control about 70 combat sorties, 30 combat support sorties, 140 airlift sorties and 40 tanker sorties. Many of these sorties provide protection to coalition ground forces, support ground force operations and help deter attacks on people and infrastructure in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Royal air force Air Commodore Mike Barnes, the U.K. Air Component commander, said it is a golden opportunity for his people to work in such an environment. *(Story by Staff Sgt. Chyenne Griffin, U.S. Central Air Forces Forward Public Affairs)*

Airmen ‘build bridge’ for new mission at Spangdahlem

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN)

— About a dozen Airmen with the 817th Contingency Response Group from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., arrived here July 28, to support the Rhein-Main Transition Program.

The five-year Rhein-Main Transition Program, scheduled for completion in December, calls for closing down Rhein-Main Air Base, transitioning its cargo and passenger service mission to Ramstein Air Base, and beefing up Spangdahlem Air Base as the overflow base for Ramstein.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Lasky

To build a better bomb

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Airman 1st Class Timothy Flottum puts muscle power into building a Mark-82 bomb here in preparation for a live fire exercise. Airman Flottum is a munitions crewmember with the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

The 817th will support the program by providing temporary airlift command and control capability for the incoming 726th Air Mobility Squadron here. It will help transition the fighter wing to coexist with a fully functioning Air Mobility Command unit here to support increased air traffic.

“CRGs are the Air Force’s global reach crisis response force,” said Maj. Scott Sveinsson, the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group liaison officer. “They are geared toward deploying trained and equipped Airmen with serviceable equipment to function as the command and control, initial airfield operations and initial operating support of an AMC CRG.”

Typically, the groups are a multiskilled expeditionary unit that deploys to various locations to open up an air base. That air base could be

anywhere from the middle of the desert with nothing there, to a fully functioning base such as Spangdahlem.

“We’re usually the first guys in the door to open up the air base to get it prepared for the follow-on mission support group,” said Col. Dean Nelson, 817th CRG commander. “Once everything is in place, squared away and everyone’s on the same sheet of music, we leave and head to our next project.” *(Story by Senior Airman Eydie Sakura, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs.)*

Air Force Intern Program helps to develop leaders

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)

— The Air Force Intern Program Central Selection Board will convene at the Air Force Personnel Center here fol-

lowing the fall 2005 Developmental Team Review Process.

The board will choose 30 junior and midlevel captains to study the application of air and space power and observe senior Defense Department leaders in critical decision-making processes.

The fast-paced 12- to 24-month program is designed to develop tomorrow’s leaders. While the program is available to line and nonline officers, a maximum of three slots are available to nonline officers.

“(It) is another great opportunity for young officers to continue their development,” said Maj. Bill Schlichtig, chief of AFPC’s officer developmental education branch here. “It’s a method of preparing our very best officers for future key leadership positions.”

The program combines hands-on experience as an intern in the offices of the secretary of defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and/or the Air Staff as well as an opportunity to earn an Air Force-funded master’s degree in organizational leadership from George Washington University. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

Long-term care insurance small price to pay

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)

— Active-duty Airmen, some Reservists, appropriated-fund civilian employees, retirees and qualified family members can still apply for the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program.

The program can help Federal employees defray the costs of in-home care, nursing-home care, or assisted-living facilities for people no longer able to perform normal daily activities because of chronic health conditions.

“Long-term care insurance isn’t just for old age — nearly 40 percent of people needing long-term care are under age 65,” said Janet Thomas, human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “Health insurance will cover hospitalization and medical care, but not necessarily long-term care. The Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program provides protection from the potentially high cost of long-term care.”

The program is sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management and provides affordable group premiums and comprehensive benefits. It is the largest program in the nation, Ms. Thomas said.

Premiums are based on an applicant’s age, so the sooner people apply, the smaller premium they will pay, Ms. Thomas said. Once enrolled, coverage will not be canceled as long as premiums are paid on time, and coverage cannot be canceled because of age or a change in health.

For more information, people can call (800) 582-3337 or TTY (800) 843-3557. Representatives are available weekdays 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EDT. People can also go to the program’s Web site online at www.ltcfeds.com. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*



See the world with ITT

Want to get out there and see the world? There's no better way to do it than with Hickam Air Force Base Information, Tickets and Travel. ITT will handle all the details, right down to getting you to the airport on time, allowing you to experience the most relaxing, enjoyable vacation of a lifetime. Check out these exciting tours offered today: Alaska Cruise, cruise only, September 16 to 25, Southeast Asia Tour October 16 to 29, New Zealand, November 12 to 20, and Hong Kong, December 4 to 12). Don't spend another year just thinking about that dream vacation ... pick up the phone and call 449-2230 to make it a reality.

Volunteer youth coaches needed

Youth Sports has a need for coaches in youth softball and baseball programs in all age categories. "Volunteers are critical to the success of these programs," said Master Sgt. Ricky Woods, NCOIC of Fitness & Sports Center operations. Interested volunteers should contact B.J. Bentley at the Youth Sports Office at 448-4492 or 448-6611.

Stars & Strikes Promotion At Hickam Bowling Center

Time is running out to get in on this sizzling promotion! Aug. 15 is the last day to enter and win tons of great prizes, including the \$500 grand prize to be named on August 16. Just bowl a game or purchase a large Coke and receive a stamp card. Call the Bowling Center at 449-2702 for full details.

Hickam Craft Fair and Car Show This Weekend!

The time has come! The Hickam Arts & Crafts Center and the Auto Hobby Center present the 2nd Annual Summer Craft Fair & Car Show Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m at the Arts & Crafts Center, located on Kuntz Ave. Come enjoy a day filled with the island's best arts and crafts, live entertainment, tasty food and tons of great prizes.

Car show categories include stock, modified, best interior, best paint and best engine compartment. Prizes will be awarded. Open to all with military base access and cost is only \$5 to register. Registration deadline is one day before the event. Call 449-1568 for additional details.

Come by for a chance to win a prize from one of the great sponsors: Honolulu Advertiser, Menchune Water Co., USAA, Island Style Images, Home Interiors & Gifts, Mary Kay, Sensaria, Warm Spirit, Cookie Lee Jewelry and Hale Koa Hotel.

Birthday Bowling Parties available

Looking for a fun way to celebrate a child's birthday? Call the Hickam Bowling Center for a party a child will always remember. Party packages for children 12 and under are available for just \$7.50 per child. The package includes two games of bowling, free shoe rental, one hot dog and one bag of chips, or two mini-cheese pizzas or two mini-pepperoni pizzas per person. Call the Center at 449-2702 for reservations.

Themed Dinners at O'Club's Wednesday Buffet

Attention Kids! Bring parents for dinner on Wednesday night to the new themed All-You-Can-Eat Buffet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the dining room and they eat for half price. August theme dinners include German Wednesday, Mexican Aug. 17, Southern Aug. 24, and All-American Aug 31. Cost is \$12.95 (\$1 Member's First discount). Children 7 to 11: \$5; Children 4 to 6: \$2.50; Children under 3 eat free. No coupons accepted in conjunction with this offer. Contact the club at 448-4608 for details.

Surf's Up with ODR

Come learn Hawaii's #1 sport from the staff at Outdoor Recreation. Group surfing les-



sons are scheduled for Saturday, August 13 and August 27 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The \$30 fee includes board rental, transportation and three hours of group instruction. Participants must be able to swim without a life jacket. Class limited to a minimum of three persons to a maximum of eight persons. Call 449-5215 for details.

Sizzling Summer Mixed Couples Tournament at Mamala Bay

This monthly tournament will be an 18-hole event scheduled for Sunday. Grab a golf partner and make it a day at Mamala Bay. Second round tee times will be used, starting at 11:45 a.m. The format is a two-person Team Best Ball, 70 percent handicap. Entry fee for the event is \$15 per couple. Call 449-2047 for more details.

Monday Night Special At JR Rockers

Enjoy your choice of J R

Rocker's tender bender platter or delicious pasta bowl with starter salad and a soft drink for only \$9.95 (\$1 Member's First discount). Don't miss this great deal served every Monday in August from 6 - 8 p.m. Contact the Enlisted Club at 449-1292 for details.



Seafood Buffet at Sea Breeze

Bring the family and friends to enjoy casual family dining overlooking beautiful Hickam Beach. Satisfy the appetite with the delicious Seafood Buffet, a variety of salads and sumptuous desserts, every Sunday evening from 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Cost is \$21.95 per person. Call 449-9900 for details.

Register Now for Fall Sports

Registration for flag foot-

ball and cheerleading will be held at Kidsports through August 12. All participants will need to bring a birth certificate and current physical exam papers. Cost for flag football is \$50 per child. Cheerleading cost is \$65 (\$30 if participant already has a cheerleading uniform). Call 448-6611 for details.

Got Stuff For Sale?

Planning on moving and don't need to take all those clothes along? Come on down to the Hickam Tailgate Sale on Saturday (and August 20) at the Burger King parking lot from 7 - 10 a.m. End stalls are \$11 each and all other stalls are just \$8 each and need to be reserved by the Friday before the tailgate sale. Contact the Community Center at 449-2361 for more details.

"Tag UR It" for Pre-Teens

As part of the Youth Center's "Pre-Teen Summer Splash" program, these two part-day camps Tuesday and Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. offer exciting opportunities to explore this beautiful island we call home. Glide on over for an ice skating trip to the Ice Palace and have a bite to eat afterward (Tuesday). Then brave all opponents in an

entertaining laser tag tournament at Ultra Zone Aug. 12. Participants are asked to bring money for lunch Tuesday and a sack lunch Aug. 12. Cost is \$30. Contact 449-2233 to sign up.

"New Experiences in Hawaii" for Teens

Come be part of this exciting part day camp series for ages 13 to 18 years old filled with fascinating opportunities to explore Oahu. Gallop over the terrain at Kualoa Ranch and enjoy horseback riding in Hawaii Monday, Aug. 8. Think "Higher Education" as you explore the University of Hawaii campus in Manoa. Then finish the day off at Cold Stone Creamery for some ice cream Wednesday. Cost is \$50, which includes horseback riding and ice cream. Bring closed toe shoes, water bottle and sun block. Contact 449-2233 for details.

Story Time at Hickam Library

Bring preschool children to the Hickam Library for "Story Time" Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Library is open at 9:30 a.m. for "Story Time" participants only. The friendly **See SERVICES, A10**

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senior master sgt.) to retrain from AFSCs with NCO overages to AFSCs with NCO shortages. The voluntary phase of the program runs through Oct. 14. If necessary, an involuntary phase will begin shortly afterward. Some restrictions apply, depending on grade and AFSC.

Members can also log onto the vMPF at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/retraining.htm> to see if they are eligible to retrain and to check the retraining in/out quotas for each grade. A complete listing of available AFSCs is posted on the vMPF Web site.

Retraining Interviews are conducted at the MPF by appointment. Contact the MPF at 449-0671 for complete program details, a listing of available retraining AFSCs, and to set-up interview appointments

Staff Sgt. selection celebration — The Chief Master Sgts. of Hawaii cordially invite all Sky Warriors to join in congratulating Team Hickam’s newest staff sgts. selects Wednesday at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club

starting at 4:30 p.m. Come out and help us honor this Air Force career achievement.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Michael Rennie at 449-4546.

Sale — Hickam Friends of the Library is having a summer blow-out sale. Thousands of good quality new and used books must go to make way for new inventory.

The sale is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 1711 located between the Airman’s Attic and outdoor recreation.

New phone numbers — The Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 601 has upgraded their phone lines and have new numbers:

Commander

449-0114

Superintendent

449-0151

Information manager

449-0259

Criminal investigations

449-0117

Counterintelligence

449-0153

Team Hickam poker motorcycle ride — A Team

Hickam poker ride will be held Aug. 30 starting at Fosters Point. Ride starts at 7:30 a.m. with the last bike out at 8:30 a.m. Last bike will return by 2 p.m. Winning hand wins two nights at Bellows Air Station. Lunch will be served after the ride. Cost for the ride is \$10. See any 15th Airlift Wing 1st Sergeant by Aug. 26, or stop by the 15th AW safety office to sign up. Sign up also available on ride day.

All Motorcycle Personal Protective Equip-ment must be worn..

Halo champions



Photo by Angela Villanueva

(From left) Airmen 1st Class Terrence Sears, Anthony Watkins, Randy Ramsey, Jamaar Milner and Gabriel Ruiz dominated the inter-service Halo tournament and earned first place. The Airmen each won an X-Box Game System.

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library staff will entertain and educate with a story and a craft presentation. Call 449-8299 for more information.

PACAF Pentathlon is back!

That's right, it's time to log on and “Venture 2 Victory” by playing the PACAF Pentathlon. This year is better than ever with over \$30,000 in prizes, trips to Las Vegas, trips to Hawaii for non-Hawaii residents, cash prizes and a brand new Harley Davidson Sportster. You can only get a game piece from a Services activity, so venture to www.pacfive.com or www.hickamservices.com for a complete list of ways to can earn a chance to win. The Pentathlon began Monday and ends Sept. 30. Register by Aug. 15, and be entered to win a \$500 shopping spree from AAFES. Only authorized AAFES customers are eligible to win). The game has already started, so Why wait any longer Go, log on and win!